



**The Urban District Council of Hexham**

---

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**of**

**The Medical Officer of Health**

**and**

**The Chief Public Health Inspector**

**For the Year 1972**

**J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**STAFF**

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

J. K. PATTERSON, M.A.P.H.I.  
Chief Public Health Inspector

R. GARDENER, M.A.P.H.I.  
Assistant Public Health Inspector

A. SUMMERS, Clerk

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council  
of Hexham :*

Mr. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1972.

As has so often been recorded in previous Annual Reports, there have been no material changes in the circumstances of the town, and it appears unnecessary to reiterate a description of its physical aspects. This is particularly so as the amalgamation with neighbouring local authorities to form the new Tynedale District is now very near, and the next and final Annual Report will afford an opportunity for some general reflections.

The population showed a small decrease of 150, and is now estimated at 9,800. There was likewise a small natural decline in the deaths which outnumbered births by 29. The number of births was 103, compared with 135 in 1971, giving a birth rate of 12.5 per 1,000 population — the exact figure of the national rate — compared with 14.0 per 1,000 for the previous year. It is gratifying to record that the infant mortality rate was only 10 per 1,000 live births, while the rate for England and Wales was 17.0. There was in fact only one death in infancy, due to congenital malformations. The number of deaths and the death rate showed a slight decrease, as is recorded with the causes of death in the statistical tables, and the death rate is below the national average.

If the single case of pulmonary tuberculosis is listed separately, as is usual, it is a remarkable fact, and an unique one, that no case of infectious disease was notified during 1972, and that the appropriate table has been omitted. I am quite confident that this is a true return, as the local doctors are meticulous in notification. Infectious disease cannot of course be regarded as a thing of the past, and while the figures for recent years indicate a diminution in the role of the Medical Officer of Health, medical advice will still be required by the new local authority.

The Council built 43 new houses during 1972, 41 being sheltered accommodation at St. Cuthbert's Close and two being for the wardens. This is the first scheme to be built to meet the special needs of the frail and elderly, and it is ideally suited for the purpose. The modernisation of older

Council houses continues at an increasing pace, and should be complete by the end of 1974. Arising from a survey undertaken during the year of privately owned houses lacking the basic amenities, steps have been taken to encourage private landlords to bring their property up to acceptable standards, and some improvement can already be seen. The raising of living standards in private accommodation has also been helped by the application of the qualification certificate procedure.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, as statutory water undertakers, continue to supply almost all properties, but a few private supplies remain. The mains water is of satisfactory quality and quantity, rather low in natural fluoride and not unduly plumbo-solvent. The Gunnerton supply continues to be brought up to one part per million by added fluoride. The company take regular samples, the results of which are made known to the Health Department, and deal promptly with complaints or unsatisfactory samples. The Health Department remains responsible for the few private supplies, from which an unusually large number of samples were taken because of troublesome intermittent contamination from one source supplying several properties, and satisfactory results were obtained when the collecting chamber and part of the distribution system were renewed.

Leisure activities are increasing, and larger numbers of people are visiting the town and using such amenities as the parks and Tyne Green. There are now six licensed caravan sites, providing for some 500 caravans. Increasing use is therefore being made of food premises, and the supervision of shops, restaurants and hotels has become more important and has taken more time. It is satisfactory to note that the standards of hygiene have improved from year to year.

It is appropriate here to mention that the building of the swimming baths has begun, and that the town will soon enjoy an amenity that has been discussed for an unrecorded number of years.

The proposed new sewage treatment works and sewerage system remained in the stages of preparation during the year.



I have to thank the Councillors for their continuous interest in the work of the Department, and I record with pleasure the courtesy and co-operation of the Clerk and other officers. Where, as in Hexham, a part-time Medical Officer of Health is engaged, the day-to-day work of the Department is in the hands of the Chief Public Health Inspector. It is obvious from his Report that routine work is increasing, and I have to thank him for his efficient conduct of affairs. Finally I have to record my appreciation of the duties carried out by the other members of my staff.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres .. .. .	5,932
Estimated Population .. .. .	9,800

### Vital Statistics

#### BIRTHS :

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. ..	52	48	100
Illegitimate .. ..	1	2	3
			<hr/> 103 <hr/>

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. ..	—	—	—
Illegitimate .. ..	—	—	—
			<hr/> — <hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .. .. .	12.5
Total Live and Still Births .. .. .	103
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population .. .. .	12.5
Still-births Rate per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .	Nil
Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population.. .. .	14.8
Still-births Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .	12.0

#### DEATHS :

Total deaths .. .. .	132
Total infant deaths .. .. .	1
Infant deaths under four weeks .. .. .	—
Deaths of infants under one year of age :—	
Legitimate infants .. .. .	1
Illegitimate infants .. .. .	Nil
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births .. .. .	10.0
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births .. .. .	17.0
Infantile Mortality (Legitimate) per 1,000 Legitimate births .. .. .	10.0
Infantile Mortality (Illegitimate) per 1,000 Illegitimate live births .. .. .	Nil

Infantile Mortality (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births .. .. .	Nil
Infantile Mortality (under one week of age) per 1,000 live births .. .. .	Nil
Prenatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births .. .. .	Nil
Illigitimate live births per cent of total live births..	2.9
Deaths from Maternal causes.. .. .	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births .. .. .	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .	29
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and ages) .. .. .	10.8
Death Rate England and Wales per 1,000 population (all causes and ages) .. .. .	12.1

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups :—

	Male	Female
0—1	—	1
1—4	—	—
5—14	—	—
15—24	—	—
25—34	—	—
35—44	—	1
45—54	4	2
55—64	9	15
65—74	16	16
75 and Over	26	42
	55	77

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	M.	F.
Malignant neoplasm—oesophagus .. .. .	1	—
—stomach .. .. .	3	—
—intestine .. .. .	1	2
—larynx .. .. .	—	1
—lung, bronchus .. .. .	5	2
—breast .. .. .	—	2
—leukaemia .. .. .	—	1
Other malignant neoplasms .. .. .	4	7
Mental disorders .. .. .	1	—
Chronic rheumatic heart disease .. .. .	—	1
Hypertensive disease .. .. .	—	2
Ischaemic heart disease .. .. .	15	16
Other forms of heart disease .. .. .	—	4
Cerebrovascular disease .. .. .	11	17
Other diseases of circulatory system .. .. .	5	7
Influenza .. .. .	1	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	2	5
Bronchitis and emphysema .. .. .	2	2
Asthma .. .. .	1	—
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	—	1
Cirrhosis of liver .. .. .	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	2	—
Other diseases, genito-urinary system .. .. .	1	—
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system .. .. .	—	1
Congenital anomalies .. .. .	—	1
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	—	1
All other accidents .. .. .	—	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries .. .. .	—	1
All causes .. .. .	55	77
TOTAL .. .. .	132	



## INFANT MORTALITY

**During Year ending 31st December, 1972**

Causes of Death	Under 1 week	Total Deaths Under 1 year
Congenital abnormalities ..	—	1
TOTALS ..	—	1

## VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1952	13.7	11.4	62.0
1953	13.2	11.09	24.0
1954	12.7	10.8	33.05
1955	14.2	10.7	22.3
1956	13.7	13.05	15.2
1957	15.4	12.2	27.2
1958	13.2	14.7	32.3
1959	15.8	12.06	40.6
1960	15.9	12.4	6.6
1961	13.7	13.9	15.3
1962	14.3	12.9	7.2
1963	13.9	12.2	22.2
1964	15.3	11.3	20.2
1965	14.4	11.5	21.4
1966	15.8	12.6	19.5
1967	17.8	11.7	—
1968	14.9	12.9	33.4
1969	11.9	13.5	54.0
1970	15.2	11.1	14.1
1971	14.0	12.6	29.6
1972	12.5	12.1	10.0

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis)  
DURING THE YEAR 1972**

Nil.

**TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1972:**

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)  
RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL**

1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

**OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS**

Total Outbreaks—Nil.      Total Cases—Nil.      Total Deaths— Nil.

**OUTBREAKS DUE TO :—**

(a) Chemical Poisons .. .. .	Nil.
(b) Salmonella Organisms .. .. .	Nil.
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin) .. .. .	Nil.
(d) Cl. Botulinum .. .. .	Nil.
(e) Other Bacteria .. .. .	Nil.

**OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :**

Total Outbreaks—Nil..      Total Cases—Nil.      Total Deaths—Nil.

**SINGLE CASES :**

Agent identified—Nil.      Unknown cause—Nil.      Total—Nil.

## HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

### 1. Hospitals

There are in the district two hospitals, namely the Hexham General Hospital and the Hexham War Memorial Hospital under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These hospitals together with others in the area under the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

### 2. Ambulance Service

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. An ambulance station is situated at West Orchard, Hexham.

### 3. Home Help Service

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required and their services are obtained through the office of the Social Services Department.

### 4. Local Authority Clinics

The following Clinics are held in the district :

Child Welfare Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Friday, 9-30 a.m. — 12 noon and 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Second and third Tuesdays in every month, 1-30 p.m.  
— 4 p.m.

First, second and third Wednesdays in every month,  
1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Family Planning Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.

Every Thursday, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Cervical Cytology Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.  
Fourth and fifth Wednesdays in each month, 2 p.m. —  
4 p.m.

Relaxation Clinic : Abbey House, Hexham.  
Every Tuesday, 1-30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

## **5. Midwifery and Home Nursing**

These services are administered by the Northumberland County Council and in this district are combined. There are two Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Urban District.

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

(Mr. J. K. PATTERSON)

The year under consideration did not have any major matters that gave any serious difficulties to the department. The daily routine work was carried out smoothly and in general with the satisfactory and willing co-operation of the various outside organisations and individuals involved.

Tribute must be paid to the staffs of the retail food trade, in particular to those in senior positions, whose continuous efforts to preserve satisfactory standards are much appreciated. In the catering trade difficulties arise, especially during the summer season in regard to the number of staff available and the quality of those willing to work in such premises. However, it is fair to say that taken all round, the district can be proud of the services provided in the differing catering premises for the ever increasing numbers of holiday makers coming into the area.

During the year a survey of houses not having basic amenities as outlined in the Housing Act 1969 was undertaken, and towards the end of the year the department became responsible for improvement grants in relation to tenanted property. It is hoped that together with the above survey this arrangement will result in more landlords taking advantage of the improvement grant scheme.

The qualification certificate procedure under the Housing Act 1969 continued to be used by an increasing number of landlords. The results of work under these provisions are most satisfactory and are assisting in bringing property up to reasonable standards.



## INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Factories and Workplaces .. .. .	86
Milk and Dairies .. .. .	37
Drainage Works : Alterations—additions .. .. .	15
New Constructions .. .. .	39
Water Supply .. .. .	71
Food Premises .. .. .	586
Slaughter House .. .. .	540
Caravan Control .. .. .	92
Clean Air .. .. .	9
Visits, Public Health Acts .. .. .	402
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act .. .. .	124
Noise Abatement Act .. .. .	15
TOTAL .. .. .	2,016

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

### Drainage works :

All drainage work is examined and tested in accordance with the relevant regulations.

Total length of new drain, 101 m.m... .. 520.77 m.

Improvements to existing properties,  
domestic .. .. . 28

New properties, domestic .. .. . 3

Trade premises .. .. . 6

Towards the end of the year this work was transferred to the Surveyor's Department except for alterations to existing properties.

### Notifiable diseases :

Upon notification of any notifiable infectious disease, investigations are made including, as applicable, any contacts of the original case.

There are no Common Lodging Houses within the area.

### Disinfestation :

It was not found necessary to carry out any full-scale disinfestation during the year.

During the summer period the Frankham Refuse Tip was systematically sprayed with tip dressing and a satisfactory level of control was achieved.

The service contractor dealt with 16 cases of wasps nests and 22 cases of house ants. In all cases the action taken was satisfactory.

**Swimming Pool :**

The privately owned swimming pool which is used by the public continued to be maintained in a satisfactory manner. 3 samples were taken for bacteriological purity and all were found to be satisfactory.

**Water supply :**

The town's supply is provided in all but a small number of isolated properties by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, and no difficulties arose during the year. The ready co-operation by the Company's officials and this department is much appreciated. The exchange of sampling data continued.

Samples obtained during the year by the			
department : Public supplies .. ..			43
Private supplies .. ..			28
			—
TOTAL .. ..			71
			—

all of which were found to be satisfactory.

Sampling of the few private supplies is carried out on a rota basis, and again the results were satisfactory.

**Typical Analyses of Water from Ladle Wells and Gunnerton**

Samples taken at			<i>Gunnerton</i>	<i>Ladle Wells</i>
pH Value .. ..			7.0	7.4
Colour .. ..			3°H.	0°H.
Turbidity .. ..			0	0
Hardness .. ..			64	26
Alkalinity .. ..			32	45
Chloride .. ..			14	9
Sulphate .. ..			30	14
Ammonia .. ..			.06	.02
Iron .. ..			.02	.05
Manganese .. ..			< .05	Not detected
Oxygen Absorbed ..			.04	0
Fluoride .. ..			0.1 average	0.1 max.
			0.2 max.	

The collecting chamber and part of the distribution system of a private supply was renewed during the year, so providing an additional supply of satisfactory water to the properties involved.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The various food premises, some 95 in total, were visited on a systematic basis during the year and the general standard was satisfactory.

As in previous years it is pleasing to note a general upgrading in standards and facilities in all types of food premises. Particular attention was given to stock rotation and with the advent of 'open date' stamping, it would seem that this particular problem will be resolved in a satisfactory manner in the near future. Several manufacturers have already adopted this system.

There are only a small number of 'micro wave' ovens in use and as appropriate additional guidance has been given to the operators.

As stated in the introduction, the district is benefitting from the additional numbers of tourists coming to the area, and the department has been vigilant in ensuring that the standards of hygiene in the various food establishments have been maintained and improved where suitable alterations were possible.

The following table details the food premises within the district :—

Type of Business	Total No.	No. complying with Reg. 16	Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Bakehouses .. ..	5	5	5	5
Butchers .. ..	7	7	7	7
Grocers .. ..	18	18	18	18
Catering Establishments ..	17	17	17	17
Public houses ..	9	9	—	—
Greengrocers ..	7	7	7	7
Wet fish shops ..	3	3	3	3
Fried fish shops ..	3	3	3	3
Ice-cream dealers/ sweets ..	19	19	—	—
Confectioners ..	7	7	7	7

### Ice-Cream Heat Treatment Regulations :

There is only one manufacturer in the district operating a heat treatment plant and this has been maintained satisfactorily, the owner being most co-operative with this department.

The two other manufacturers use the ' cold mix ' process and no problems have occurred in these premises.

48 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream and no cases of unsatisfactory handling were found.

Number of new registrations during the year	..	1
Number of samples collected..	.. ..	12

Results of examination :—

Grade 1	..	11
„ 2	..	1
„ 3	..	—
„ 4	..	—

### **Milk Special Designation Regulations 1960 :**

The district has again been well served by the Hexham Dairy Company which is the only licensed heat-treatment plant (pasteurising) and bottling plant in the area.

As the sample results show, a consistently high quality product is produced, and it is pleasing to note that additional improvements were carried out during the year.

During the year the company closely examined the possibilities in replacing the present glass bottles with plastic or board containers. Investigations were still being pursued at the year end. There is no doubt that in the interest of hygiene, disposable containers have much in their favour. The problems of increased cost and the disposal of used containers are still the two major factors in introducing the new system.

Sample results :

For methylene blue test	.. ..	24
For phosphatase test	.. ..	24

All the samples submitted passed the appropriate test.

### **Brucellosis**

Sampling of farm bottled (non-accredited) milk supplied by Hexham Dairy Company was carried out in accordance with Circular 17/66 of the Department of Health. All the samples obtained were negative. The producer retailer in the area is accredited under the Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and no action has been necessary by this department.

Number of raw milk samples obtained for brucella investigation	.. ..	10
---	-------	----

During the year, 2 samples of untreated cream were submitted for bacterial examination. All were found to be satisfactory.



**The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963**

(i)	Number of egg pasteurisation plants in the district .. .. .	Nil
(ii)	Number of samples of liquid egg submitted to the Alpha-Amylase test and their results	Nil
(ii)	Comments on the year's administration of these Regulations .. .. .	—

**Poultry Inspection**

(i)	Number of poultry processing premises within the district .. .. .	Nil
(ii)	Number of visits to these premises ..	Nil
(ii)	Total number of birds processed during the year .. .. .	Nil
(iv)	Types of birds processed .. .. .	Nil
(v)	Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption .. .. .	Nil
(vi)	Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption .. .. .	Nil
(vii)	Comments on poultry processing and inspection .. .. .	Nil

**The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966 :**

The various mobile shops operating within the district have been regularly checked and together with the food stalls in the market, have continued to operate satisfactorily.



FOOD INSPECTION

UNSOUND FOOD				Surrendered		Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
				st.	lbs.		
Beef (Home-killed)	..			—	—	—	—
Beef (Imported)	..			—	—	—	—
Mutton (Home-killed)	..			—	—	—	—
Mutton (Imported)	..			—	—	—	—
Pork	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Game..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Poultry	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Veal	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
				lbs.	ozs.		
Fish	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Fruit	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Canned Goods (Meat)	..			47	—	—	—
"    "    (Assorted)				38	4	—	—
Bacon	..	..	..	339	—	—	—
Cheese	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Butter	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Lard	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Eggs	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Other Foods..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
Frozen Foods	..	..		421	—	—	—

TOTAL : 60 st. 5lbs. 4ozs.

# **CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number killed ..	1,382	34	16	5,047	1,630	8,109
Number not inspected ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
<b><i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i></b>						
Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	3	6	4	25	1	35
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. ..	16	5	3	31	19	74
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .. ..	1.37	32.4	43.7	1.1	1.2	
<b><i>Tuberculosis only :</i></b>						
Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned .. ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
<b><i>C. Bovis</i></b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned .. ..	Nil	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation .. ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Generalised and totally condemned .. ..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	

## **NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR**

Steers	Heifers	Cows Bulls	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Rams Ewes	Pigs	Sows Boars
134	1,248	34	16	4,957	90	1,643	45

**SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL**

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cows .. ..	Nil.	2,226	2,226
Other Animals ..	Nil.	5,711	5,711
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>Nil.</b>	<b>7,937</b>	<b>7,937</b>

All unsound meat and offal condemned at the Abattoir is collected by a processing firm from Gateshead where it is sterilized under supervision.

**SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54**

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter .. .. . 2

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The servicing company on contract to the Council for pest control continues to provide a satisfactory service, and this coupled with the numerous individual contracts with business premises has resulted in a satisfactory position being maintained in relation to pest control.

No evidence of rat infestation in the main sewerage system was found during the year.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
Number of properties in district .. ..	4,198	60
Total number of properties inspected following notification .. ..	105	2
Number infested by rats .. ..	70	—
Number infested by mice .. ..	12	—
Number of properties inspected other than by notification .. ..	22	—
Number infested by rats .. ..	3	—
Number infested by mice .. ..	1	—

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The two licensed premises continue to operate in accordance with this Act and no problems arose during the year.

## AGRICULTURE, SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE (PROVISIONS), ACT 1956

Sections 3 and 5 of this Act are administered by the local authority. There are 36 farms and holdings within the district.

The arrangements provided by the owners have been found to be satisfactory in relation to the size of the premises.

## SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 1964

Seven dealers are registered under this Act, the Act being administered by the Police Authority.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The provisions of this Act continue to be satisfactorily complied with.

In general only minor infringements were noted during the year, which were dealt with on an informal basis.

Every effort is made to bring to the notice of new businesses the requirements of the Act and to ensure satisfactory conditions obtain for staff.

All relevant deposited plans are examined in the department to ensure compliance with the Act where necessary.

**Table A : Registrations and General Inspections**

CLASS OF PREMISES	Number Newly registered during year	Total number at end of year	Number of general inspections
Offices .. .. .	2	77	15
Retail shops .. .. .	—	106	31
Wholesale shops, warehouses .. .. .	—	2	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens .. .. .	2	20	12
Fuel storage depots .. .. .	—	1	—
TOTALS	4	206	59

**Table B : Number of visits of all kinds** .. .. . 124

**Table C : Analysis of Persons Employed**

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices .. .. .	434
Retail shops .. .. .	679
Wholesale departments, warehouses .. .. .	9
Catering establishments open to the public/canteens .. .. .	108
Fuel storage depots .. .. .	2
TOTAL .. .. . (Males 471 : Females 761)	1,232



**FACTORIES ACT, 1961**

Inspections (Including Inspections by Public Health Inspector).

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	2	2	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .. .. .	78	97	1	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	5	9	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	85	108	1	—

**CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND**

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	2	2	—	—	—

There are no Registered Outworkers within the district.

## **CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960**

There are six licensed sites within the district providing a total of 493 pitches.

The various sites were operated satisfactorily during the year. During the main summer holiday period, the supervision of these sites catering for some 2,000 persons, places an increased responsibility on the department. However, it is a credit to the operators that even on these occasions few difficulties arose in regard to the various requirements of the Act.

## **CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956**

For several years it has been gratifying to report that both in domestic and trade premises there has been an increasing trend to smokeless fuel, mainly natural gas or oil. This has continued during the year.

The Council has continued to set an example to other landlords by continuing their forward looking modernisation programme of their pre-war houses, which includes the installation of natural gas appliances. It is worth noting that in the majority of improvement grant cases, this type of fuel is also chosen.

Only a small number of complaints have been received in regard to offences under the Act and these were dealt with informally.

## **NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960**

The major number of complaints were in regard to users of unsilenced pneumatic drills. Warning letters were sent to two firms after repeated contraventions of the Act, the results of which the firms concerned took the necessary action to comply with the Act. It is to be regretted that statutory undertakers are at present exempted from complying with the Act. However, it has been possible by persistent persuasion to get reasonable co-operation from these operators.

## HOUSING

## TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1972

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	43	—	43
(b) By any other Author- ority .. .. .	Nil	—	—
(c) By Private Persons ..	Nil	8	8

Total Number of Inhabited Houses in District .. ..	3,504
Total Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority ..	1,123
Estimated Population .. .. .	9,800

**1.—Closing and Demolition of Houses**

(1) Number of houses demolished as a result of clearance Schemes .. .. .	Nil
(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas) .. .. .	Nil
(2) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure .. .. .	2
(3) Houses closed, including partial closure .. .. .	1
(4) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings..	1

**2.—Reconditioning and Repair**

Number of unfit houses rendered fit by procedure under  
either Housing or Public Health Acts :

(1) As a result of informal action .. .. .	41
(2) By owners as a result of statutory action .. .. .	Nil
(3) By local authority on default of owners .. .. .	Nil

**3.—Inspection**

(1) Number of houses inspected and visited for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts .. .. .	63
(2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects ..	49
(3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit for human habitation .. .. .	1

**4.—Housing Acts 1969 and 1971 :**

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) *Discretionary :*

Applications submitted to local authority .. .. .	71
Applications rejected by local authority .. .. .	4
Applications approved .. .. .	67
Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme .. .. .	351

(b) *Standard :*

Number of houses for which grants have been made during the year .. .. .	Nil
Total number to date .. .. .	75

## Housing Report

The following tables provide the statistical information in relation to the year 1972 :—

Total number of general purpose housing units that became available.. .. .	26
Total number of O.A.P. bungalows becoming available.. ..	48
<hr/>	
All classes — GRAND TOTAL .. .. .	74
<hr/>	

### Rehousing Details :

Number of families rehoused under points scheme .. ..	24
Number of families rehoused as special cases .. .. .	2
Number of families rehoused as key workers .. .. .	2
Number of families rehoused from tied tenancies/eviction ..	3
Number of applicants rehoused to O.A.P. bungalows/flatlets ..	55
Number of applicants rehoused from unfit premises/demolition ..	7
<hr/>	
All classes — GRAND TOTAL .. .. .	93
<hr/>	
Number of refusals of tenancies from priority list applicants ..	6
Number of cases of overcrowding abated.. .. .	17
Number of cases of under-occupancy rehoused in smaller accommodation.. .. .	6
Number of tenants making mutual exchange arrangements ..	9
Other re-lets .. .. .	18
Number of new applications accepted on to the general housing list .. .. .	34
Number of new applications accepted on to the O.A.P. housing list .. .. .	16
Number of applicants on the general housing list	
(a) residing in the Urban District area .. .. .	52
(b) residing outside the Urban District area .. .. .	29
(c) of the total of Class (b) 28 have birth qualification ..	
<hr/>	
TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS .. .. .	81
<hr/>	

### Number of applicants for O.A.P. housing

(a) residing in the Urban District area .. .. .	61
(b) residing outside the Urban District area .. .. .	3
<hr/>	
TOTAL .. .. .	64
<hr/>	











